

**From:** [Eoc, Epahq](#)  
**Subject:** HQ EOC Spot Report, Regions 2 & 4, Hurricanes Maria & Irma, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands & Florida - Update #34  
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## **HQ EOC Spot Report: Regions 2 & 4, Hurricanes Maria & Irma, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands & Florida - Update #34**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report as of October 8, 2017 at 7:00pm ET**

**Overview:** EPA responders, including OSCs, CICs, Safety Officers, CID/NCERT agents, and EPA contractors, have resumed post storm response activities, including assessments at regulated facilities, NPL/Removal sites and drinking water and wastewater facilities. EPA and contractor personnel have deployed in limited numbers to St. Croix to begin assessment operations. Resource orders have begun for additional personnel for the response in Puerto Rico for deployment on 10/15/2017, pending resources, lodging/berthing and transport available.

The Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) in Edison NJ remains fully staffed and operational. One Region 2 person is staffing the ESF10 desk at the FEMA NRCC in Washington D.C. One OSC and one CEPD personnel are at the FEMA IOF in San Juan. The REOC Resource Unit is maintaining a special communications schedule to ensure continuous contact with EPA and contractor personnel within Hurricane impacted areas. Plans for the assessment of fixed facilities, Superfund sites, and critical infrastructure are in place and are being utilized. The

REOC Planning and Operations Sections are developing plans for the assessment of areas of special concern and debris management.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** All Region 4 State EOCs, with the exception of Florida, are back to normal operations.

### **EPA REGION 2**

**EPA drinking water assessment teams traveling to remote interior towns have so far found that for 11 of those communities, with a total population of nearly 6,000, they are the first**

emergency response personnel with whom the residents have had direct contact. EPA has provided the locations, and the number of residents in each town, to FEMA.

PR sewage systems were damaged; 40% of the sewage treatment plants are not operational because of damage to the plants themselves, damage to the trunk lines that bring the sewage to the plants, and/or damage to or lack of electric power at pump stations. Raw sewage discharges are ubiquitous; some discharges enter waterways upstream of drinking water intakes. Residents are using surface waters (rivers, streams, lakes, coastal waters) for washing, potentially exposing them to harmful pathogens from the sewage discharges. EPA, Center for Disease Control and PR Department of Health are advising residents not to bathe in surface waters. In the USVI, damage to sewage systems was less severe, but plants do not have primary power, and lack sufficient generators or generator fuel.

Nearly all personnel stationed in the Caribbean have been able to report to work, and all are expected to be able to report by September, 10. Data and voice services and cell phone service is operating.

EPA currently has approximately 88 personnel (employees and contractors) in PR and the USVI working on the response.

## **Puerto Rico**

EPA personnel have conducted preliminary assessments at nine Superfund or Oil Response Sites in Puerto Rico to determine if the sites were impacted by Hurricane Maria and evaluate the potential for contamination to cause offsite impacts. At five of these sites all assessment phases have been completed; the remaining four sites, the data is being reviewed to determine if further assessment is warranted.

## **U.S. Virgin Islands**

EPA has been requested to add collection and disposal of medical waste as part of our hazardous waste mission. EPA is drafting a Mission Assignment Task Order (MATO) to task this medical waste mission under existing direct assistance MA.

## **REGION 4**

- Two Region 4 OSCs remain in Miami representing the EPA in Unified Command with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
- USACE and EPA Region 4 Water Protection Division have completed their ESF #3 water infrastructure assessment mission by assessing 964 wastewater and 1,225 drinking water facilities.
- The Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division reports that all 100 ambient air monitoring stations in Florida are operational.
- Two Landfill Technical Specialists from the Resource Conservation and Restoration Division (RCRD) mobilized to the Florida Keys. The team has visited 10 Disaster Debris Management Sites (DDMSs) to date and observed no issues at 6 of the 10. Issues identified at the other 4 sites include containers of suspected hazardous material comingled with non-ESF #10 debris and staged debris being too close to residential areas and/or wetlands. Potential hazmat containers were removed from the DDMS sites

during site inspections and were referred to FDEP for follow-up action.

**Media Interest:** High

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